

## **NATURAL HELPERS PROGRAM**

A collaboration between the Village Exchange Center and the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs.

### **Natural Helper Application**

***Who are Natural Helpers?*** In any given community there are “helpers” who people of that community “naturally” turn to for help. The help that community members provide includes finding a medical doctor, helping enroll children in school, learning about ethnic food stores, child care resources, or job opportunities, and many other types of help needed to adapt to life in Aurora. These “natural helpers” are highly respected for their knowledge of available resources and services and are turned to for help when a bilingual person is needed to help interact with the broader community. Natural Helpers supplement the work of the community navigators.

***The Natural Helpers Program*** will provide training to help already existing “natural helpers” better serve the members of their community. It is not the goal to train people to become “natural helpers” – they already *are* “natural helpers.” The goal is to develop a network of person-to-person support services that will help immigrant newcomers more effectively access existing community resources and work with community social service organizations.

***Training & Commitment:*** people selected for the Natural Helpers Program must commit to a 20-hour training program. Some support money will be paid to help defray the cost of child care, transportation, and other costs connected with attending the training.

**The training program dates are scheduled for three Saturdays: February 24, March 3 and March 10 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. The deadline for accepting applications is February 9, 2018.**

***Requirements:*** 15-20 people will be selected by representatives from the Village Exchange Center and the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs to participate in the Natural Helpers Program. A successful applicant:

- Has a history of being a person who community members turn to for help and has a history of serving members of the various immigrant or refugee communities in the Aurora/Denver area.
- Is knowledgeable about his/her communities’ activities and ideally knows many, if not most of the members of a given community (where community may be based on a neighborhood, a church, a school district or other subgroup within a broader racial/ethnic group).
- Ability to function well in two languages, fluent enough to interact effectively with service providers and can read and write English in addition to his/her native language

- Has access to a computer or smart phone and has an e-mail address that is checked regularly.

**Expectations:** Those selected to become Natural Helpers (NH) are expected to:

- Complete the application process.
- Complete a background check.
- Attend the **20-hour** training program in February/March 2018.
- Attend no fewer than **3-6** NH Mini-Trainings, NH Service Providers Fair and other networking events (scheduled monthly)
- Participate in **volunteer opportunities** through the Village Exchange Center at community events.
- **Provide assistance** to an immigrant or refugee in need, in a respectful, professional and culturally-competent manner.
- Honor commitments in providing assistance to a person in need through keeping scheduled appointments or following up with referrals or information in a timely fashion.
- **Report monthly** to the Village Exchange Center on help and services provided.
- Notify the Village Exchange Center when there is an issue with a client.
- Notify the Village Exchange Center when there is an issue with the reporting technology and the Natural Helper's Resource Guide
- **Become a liaison** between the various immigrant communities and the Village Exchange Center.

## **Natural Helper Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Personal Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook or LinkedIn (Please add any other social media you have)

How fluent are you in speaking English? (choose one)

\_\_\_ Completely \_\_\_ Moderately \_\_\_ Can "get-by"

How fluent are you in reading English? (choose one)

\_\_\_ Completely \_\_\_ Moderately \_\_\_ Can "get-by"

Do you have any experience working with immigrant and/or refugee communities?

If yes, how, when and where?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of transportation do you use? \_\_\_\_\_

Current employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please add a brief Bio**

(We would love to know more about you, where are you from? your family, when did you arrive in the U.S. and in Colorado, and what are your expectations) Feel free to use extra space on the back

**How and where are you involved with your ethnic community in the Aurora-Denver area?**

Provide some examples of how you have helped members of your community in the U.S.  
(Extra pages may be added):

**When completed, please submit via email or by mail to:**

Village Exchange Center

1609 Havana St

Aurora, CO 80010

Email: [lara@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:lara@villageexchangecenter.org)